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PRICE LIST AND TESTIMONIALS

OF THE

Wonderful, New

McPike Grape,

Equal, if not superior to Black Hamburg in quality.

THE SILAS WILSON CO.,

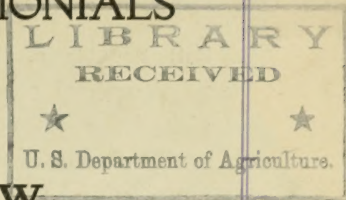
ATLANTIC, IOWA,

Will offer a limited number of plants for sale
this fall and next spring at the following

PRICES:

One year No. 1	\$1.00 each.	\$10.00 per dozen.
Two year No. 1	1.50 "	15.00 " "

SEPTEMBER, 1897.



TESTIMONIALS.

Daily Republican, Alton, Ill.:

A special committee of the Alton Horticultural Society visited the vineyard of Hon. H. G. McPike, at Mt. Lookout, on Thursday of this week for the purpose of thoroughly examining and making official report upon the merits of his new grape, the McPike. It has been exhibited and taken first premium at all horticultural fairs for some time, but this year an ideal grape crop afforded the first opportunity to test it as to all essential points. It is, without question, the finest new grape that has come to public notice for many years, and fully justifies the enthusiasm of its owner. The committee report will give it the highest recommendation.

Alton, Ill., Evening Telegraph, Saturday Sept 5, 1896:

Mr. H. G. McPike exhibited at the Telegraph office today a specimen of his wonderful seedling, "The McPike." It is produced from the Concord and Worden. The present character of the Concord is grown to its seedling, the "Worden," with its extra hardiness, good leaf, increased quality of beautiful blue-black fruit and bloom upon the berry. The McPike is a seedling of the Worden and partakes of all good qualities of these two grapes to a marked degree. Perfectly hardy, with a leaf unprecedented; it is earlier than the Concord, bunches large, even and compact, berries even in size, covered with a beautiful bloom, blue-black in color, ripens uniformly and has generally the appearance of the Worden. The berries are of mammoth size, being three inches in circumference and of superb quality—by far the best grape grown. One berry measured $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The grape is almost perfection. Mr. McPike has sent the grapes to all parts of the country and the comments are most favorable upon its wonderful size, flavor, hardiness and beauty. A comparison between the McPike and its grandparent, the Concord, is very great. A committee of Alton horticulturists visited Mr. McPike's vineyard and spoke in the highest terms of the new and wonderful seedling, "The McPike."



Wendling
& Co.
Chicago
Ill.

M'PIKE GRAPE.

Originated by H. G. M'Pike of Mount Lookout Park, Alton, Illinois. A seedling of Worden with all its good qualities, unequaled leaf, perfect character in every point, superb quality, color and flavor like Worden; berries very large, measuring over three inches in circumference easily; the best grape grown without a fault or a peer.

St. Charles, Mo., News:

Beside me stands a little basket just received with the largest good grapes that I have yet eaten, from the originator, H. G. McPike, of Alton, Ill., who sent them. The leaves show that it is of Worden blood, and the fruit will confirm it. I think the Worden has been my choice among the black grapes for some years as a table grape. This new one is just like it, but more so, being double the size in berry. It is truly a grand affair.—*Seasonable Notes from Judge Miller.*

E. Y. Teas, Horticulturist, Irvington, Ind.

IRVINGTON, Ind., Sept. 3, 1897.

Silas Wilson, Atlantic, Iowa.

Dear sir:—At the American Pomological Society at Columbus I saw Mr. McPike, and the "McPike." On the same table were quantities of Campbell's Early, pigmies beside the Illinois grape. I only ate two berries of the new candidate but thought it wonderfully good, as it certainly is wonderfully showy and handsome. I have been saying that Campbell's Early was the greatest and best grape known to Americans. I am satisfied that I was mistaken. I took great pride in showing Campbell's Early at our last state fair. I have written Mr. McPike to know if I can show his at our state fair this year, September 13 to 18.

Yours respectfully,

E. Y. TEAS.

H. M. Dunlap, Secretary Illinois State Horticultural Society.

SAVOY, Ill., August 28, 1896.

Silas Wilson Co., Atlantic, Iowa.

Dear sirs:—The new grape, "McPike," arrived in time to be exhibited at our Champaign county fair this week, where, owing to its large size, it attracted considerable attention. I have tested the grape and think its quality is exceptionally good for so large a grape. I believe you have a valuable variety of grape worthy of trial in our State Horticultural Experiment Stations, where we would like to place them as soon as you have the plants.

Yours truly,

H. M. DUNLAP.

Country Gentleman, September 10, 1896:

The Silas Wilson Company, Nurserymen, Atlantic, Iowa, send us a basket of new grapes they are propagating, the "McPike," said to be a seedling of the Worden, produced by Mr. H. G. McPike, of Mount Lookout Park, Alton, Ill. Bunch and berry are of remarkably large size for natives—the largest we have seen since the days of the old Union Village—the berry being three inches in circumference, dark red in color, full of juice between skin and pulp; the latter tender and sweet nearly to center; seeds easily ejected; flavor pure.

Alton, Ill., Evening Telegraph, Sept. 2, 1895:

The new grape propagated by Mr. H. G. McPike, at his Mount Lookout Park, in this city, is something wonderful, both in size, quality and flavor. It has Worden for its parent, with all its good qualities; it is unequaled in leaf and bloom; it has large bunches, and berries of equal size, and has a perfect character in every point. It is superb in quality. Its color and flavor are like the Worden. Its berries are larger than any others on the list, and measure three inches in circumference. It is easily the best grape and is without a fault or peer.

Sentinel Democrat, Alton, Ill., Saturday Evening, Sept. 5, 1896.

Hon. H. G. McPike left at this office this morning some splendid bunches of the McPike grape, which is the result of thirty years of persistent experimenting with a view to obtaining a grape that would exceed in size any other grape and still retain the good qualities of the little fruit. From the samples left with us this morning it may easily be concluded that Mr. McPike has succeeded beyond measure, for his grapes are all larger than big Damson plums and grow in clusters that are little less than wonderful to behold, and must tax the strength of the vines upon which they hang. By actual measurement one of the largest ones measured three and five-eighths inches in circumference, and they are a luscious thing to eat. Coleman's Rural World pronounces the McPike the best grape known, and it captured the premium at the last meeting of the Alton Horticulture Society.

Coleman's Rural World.

This mammoth production, which we personally examined, together with its grand leaf, was originated by H. G. McPike at his home place, Mount Lookout Park, Alton, Ill. Mr. McPike has been seeking, if possible, to find a better grape from every point than the Concord; one that should be wholly reliable and furnish annually untold tons of superior fruit. He has worked with the Alton Horticultural society for thirty years with this object particularly in view. Now it is accomplished, the grape is here, and will be propagated in 1896-97, and offered to the public. The general character of the Concord is given to its seedling, the "Worden," with its extra hardiness, good leaf, increased quality of blue-black fruit and bloom upon the berry. This is the first step forward. The McPike is a seedling of the Worden, and partakes of all the good qualities of these two grapes to a marked degree. Perfectly hardy, with a leaf unprecedented; it is earlier than the Concord, bunches large, even and compact, berries even in size, covered with a beautiful bloom, blue-black in color, ripens uniformly, and has generally the appearance of the Worden. The berries are of mammoth size being three inches in circumference and of superb quality, by far the best grape grown. This grape has taken the premium wherever shown, and did so again at last Saturday's meeting of the Alton Horticultural Society, held at the residence of F. Hoffmeister, where was a magnificent show of fruit and a large attendance of fruit growers and vineyardists. A grape without a fault, of such size and appearance, takes the premium for quality where a most beautiful exhibition of one hundred of the best varieties are on the table.

Jackson & Perkins Co, Nurserymen.

NEWARK, Wayne Co., N. Y. Sept. 8, 1896.
Silas Wilson, Esq., Atlantic, Iowa.

Dear sir:—Mr. Stuart has handed us a bunch of your new seedling grape, fruit of which you recently sent him. We admire the fruit very much, indeed, and think it must be a valuable sort.

JACKSON & PERKINS CO.

Alton Horticultural Society. Report of committee.

Mr. President:—Your committee appointed to visit the vineyard and examine the new grape shown by H. G. McPike at our last two meetings and named McPike, respectfully report that on Thursday, September 5th, the vineyard was visited and we were shown the vines, some of them yet loaded with fruit. We found the quality to be better than the Concord or even the Worden. Some of the committee going so far as to place it along side of the Wilder or the Goethe in quality, while its enormous size at once attracts attention. We found, by measurment, some berries to be three inches and three-eighths in circumference. We were especially interested in our examination of the vines and foliage. The original vine, a seedling of the Worden, planted by Mr. McPike is now seven years old. We confidently recommend this new grape as a valuable addition to our short list of grapes worthy of cultivation. We congratulate Mr. McPike, our veteran grape grower, on the success that has crowned his efforts after more than thirty years of persistent labor to produce a vine healthier than the Concord and of far better quality. This new grape is now being propagated by the Silas Wilson Co., of Atlantic, Iowa, and will be placed on the market in the fall of 1897 and spring of 1898.

October 8, 1896.

E. H. RIEHL,
JOHN M. PEARSON, } Committee.
W. E. GRADOLPH, }

S. D. Willard, Nurseryman, Geneva, N. Y.

GENEVA, N. Y., September 7, 1896.

Hon. Silas Wilson, Atlantic, Iowa.

Dear sir:—The "McPike" grapes received today, but they were not packed as carefully as they should have been for such a long distance and could hardly be said to be in a good condition. However, I succeeded in getting a few berries, sufficient to test the quality, and have to say I think the quality in every way a superior one. It seems to me to be quite an acquisition in the way of a new grape.

Yours truly,

S. D. WILLARD.

The Missouri Valley Farmer, Atchinson, Kan., Aug. 24, 1896.

H. G. McPike, of Alton, Ill., a brother of Mr. McPike of McPike & Fox of this city, is an enthusiastic horticulturist. He has originated a new grape that beats any thing yet propagated. This office received a basket of this wonderful fruit. The berries are three inches in circumference. Mr. McPike has been seeking, if possible, to find a better grape than the Concord; one that should be wholly reliable and furnish tons of superior fruit. He has worked with this object in view. Now it is accomplished. The general character of the Concord is given to its seedling, the "Worden," with its extra hardiness, good leaf, increased quality of beautiful blue-black fruit and bloom upon the berry. This is the first step forward. The McPike grape is a seedling of the Worden and partakes of all the good qualities of these two grapes. Perfectly hardy, with a leaf unprecedented, it is earlier than the Concord branches, large, even and compact; berries even in size, covered with a beautiful bloom, blue-black in color, ripens uniformly, and has generally the appearance of the Worden.

Iowa State Register, Des Moines, Aug. 31, 1895.

The Register has received a sample of the new "McPike" grape from Hon. Silas Wilson, of Atlantic. This grape is a seedling of the Worden and has all the good qualities of that popular favorite, but it is a much larger and a better grape. We do not know as to its keeping qualities, but the grapes are large, finely flavored and beautifully colored, and the leaves upon its vines are as large as the usual pumpkin leaves. The improvements in grapes go steadily on, and there is no better or more profitable place to grow grapes than in Iowa, if they are given the necessary attention.

Daily Telegraph, Atlantic, Iowa.

With such a strong and reliable firm as the Silas Wilson Co. to propagate and introduce it the McPike grape promises to be a record breaker for general usefulness and popularity. For two seasons it has come under our inspection and we are still of the opinion that it has no equal. It is faultless. * * *

Thomas Meehan & Sons, Germantown, Pa.

GERMANTOWN, Pa., Aug. 25, 1896.

The Silas Wilson Co., of Atlantic, Iowa, have introduced a new grape called McPike. In our climate it is of the first importance that the plant should be suited to the conditions. We should need nothing better for our gardens than the foreign Black Hamburg, if it would suit itself to our climate, but it will not do that, and many of our good varieties are nearly as particular. One of those which have been the most satisfied with our climate is the Worden. McPike is a seedling from this, and in our opinion every way superior. The Wilson Company appear to have struck a good thing.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS.

A. L. Wood, Woodlawn Nursery, Rochester, N. Y.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. Sept. 8, 1896.

Silas Wilson Co., Atlantic, Iowa.

Dear sir:—Your favor of the 5th received and basket containing the McPike Grape also came duly at hand. I am greatly obliged to you for the same and I am much interested in seeing the fruit. It certainly is a wonderful grape. The berries very large, as large as Damson plum, of very few seed. Its pulp is sweet and tender to the center. I would say that it is superior to all others within my knowledge.

A. L. WOOD.

S. Meller, Nurseryman.

BLUFFTON, Mo., Nov. 20, 1896.

Silas Wilson Co., Atlantic, Iowa.

Yours respecting the McPike grape received. Of course I must wait until the vines are for sale and if spared so long will then purchase it. When a man has passed his 76th year he is anxious to see a new fruit as soon as possible. I have given up the business and have my grounds about full, except grapes and strawberries—will always have a place for them. I consider the McPike one of the grandest in the grape family, and while I cannot grow it myself for a few years I shall keep an eye on it.

S. MELLER.